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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1824)

Name of Candidate	CHAITANYA KHEMANI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	**Registration Number**	746087
Center	ONLINE	**Date**	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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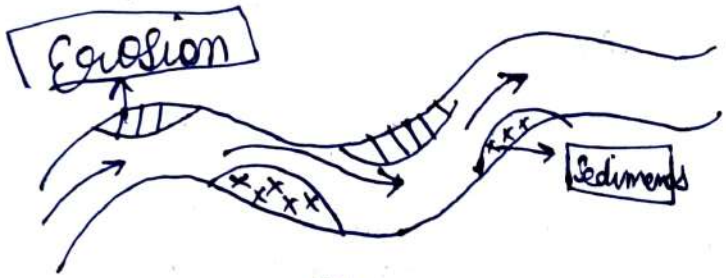
(1) Explaining the concept of meandering. Identify the various landforms associated with flood plains.

Meandering is the curvilinear movement of the river in the middle course owing to gravity and the enormous amount of sediments it is carrying



Meandering

Meandering leads to creation of fertile flood plains, On-bow lakes. Meandering of Ganges in UP, Bihar are prominent examples in India

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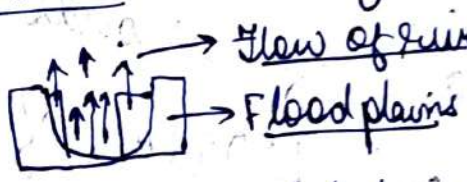
Floodplains is the deposition of sedimends that had previously being eroded and weathered by the river in the upper stages.

Every year, the river breaches its banks leading to creation of fertile, alluvial enriched floodplains



The landforms associated with floodplains are:

→ Meander: Curvilinear mvmt of river.
→ River valleys: Fertile flatlands
→ Oxbow lakes: 'U' shaped lakes

Floodplains represent the fertile regions of the geography and provide source of food to the population. They must be preserved and protected.

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(2) What is a cloudburst and what are its effects? Why are they more frequent in the Himalayan region.

Cloudburst is the sudden, enormous rainfall over a very small region without prior warning. Often, the criteria of cloudbursts is more than 100 mm of rain over 20-30 sq m in an hour or two.

Effects of Cloudburst

↳ Flashfloods: sudden movement and breach in river banks

↳ Erosion of topsoil

↳ Landslides, soil creeps

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↳ Destruction of structures, dams, bridges.

↳ Avalanches in colder areas.

↳ Loss of life of humans & animals

Cloudbursts - frequent in Himalayas

↳ Nature of South West Monsoon - Intense, rainfall in the summer na

↳ Orographic structure - high mountains lead to relief rainfall

↳ Widespread deforestation, human-related development has put pressure on the environment leading to more calamites.

Cloudbursts represent destructive nature of our environment. eg. Uttarakhand Cloudbursts. The National disaster management authority guidelines must be followed to mitigate vulnerability.

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(3) Volcanic eruptions are widely considered as agents of destruction. But they also have certain positive impacts on the people and landscape. Discuss.

Volcanic eruption is sudden dispersal of lava, molten rocks, gaseous plumes from within the interior of the earth to the outer surface. eg: Mt. Vesuvius - eruption (Italy), Krakatoa (Indonesia)

Volcanoes - Agents of Disruptions

- They cause destruction of lives, property, animals.
- Disrupts air travel, due, to thick smock erupted.
- Leads to a acid rains due to sulfur emissions.
- Destroys entire cities, islands eg: Pompeii (Italy) solidified due to eruption
- Leads to climate change in far off places.
- Sources of Earthquake, Tsunami

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Volcanoes - positive impact on geography

↳ Agents of creation of crust, ridges.
eg: Mid oceanic ridges created by volcanoes according to Sea-floor spread Theory.

↳ Several intrusive landforms like Dykes, Sills, Batholiths, Lopoliths created.

↳ Islands are formed by eruptions. eg Hawaii islands created by eruptions

Volcanoes - positive impact on people

↳ Leads to creation of fertile black soil which is very optimum for agriculture
eg: Deccan trap (India) - sugarcane, cotton cultivation

↳ Igneous rocks are storehouse of minerals, eg: Pumice, granite used for construction.

↳ potential tourism and places of interest.
eg: Hawaii magma flows attract tourists.

Volcanoes represent the ~~Crust~~ "building" aspect of nature, but, it also leads to disruptions and loss of lives & property.

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(8) How does the interaction between oceans and the atmosphere stabilize and regulate the climatic variations over the Earth?

Atmosphere is the layer of air surrounding the earth enveloping all around the hemispheres. Eg- Troposphere, Stratosphere.

Oceans are the vast bodies of water covering over 75% of the Earth.
eg: Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean.

Interaction between oceans and atmosphere

↳ Help in stabilization & regulating the climatic variations.

↳ Heat radiated from Sun, passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the oceans ~~via~~ and transported from equatorial

regions to ~~tro~~ polar regions via ocean currents eg. Benguela Current, Humboldt current

↳ eg Thermohaline circulation helps in regulating the saline and heat variations of the region. eg: Atlantic Meridonal circulation

↳ Planetary winds (Trade winds, Westerlies, polar cold winds) formed due to atmospheric pressure variations flow over the oceans and help regulate the climate. eg: Westerlies blowing in the mid latitude bring winter rainfall and form "Mediteranean form of climate"

↳ Easterly Jet streams which blow in the high latitudes form cyclones, polar vorten leading to bitter cold in North America and Europe.

Ocean and atmosphere are interconnected in maintaining homeostasis in the Earth and preserving the optimum conditions for living.

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5 Despite its potential there are several challenges in the implementation of the Ken Betwa link project Discuss

Ken-Betwa linking project is the joining of the Ken and the Betwa rivers which flow in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

Potentials of the linking project

↳ It will increase navigability of the rivers.

↳ Source of irrigation for the nearby regions.

↳ Perennial source of water for the local population including the dry summer months.

↳ Tourism potential eg: inter-river cruise

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Challenges for the project

↳ will lead to displacement of indigenous population. eg: Bhils, Gonds will ~~loose~~ lose their ancestral land.

↳ Submergence of vast swathes of fertile land

↳ Disruptions in the nearby tiger reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuary. eg: Kanha Tiger reserve, Pench forests will be harmed.

↳ Will require tremendous financial capital.

Inter-linking of rivers provide revolutionary progress and development of entire region (eg: Tennessee Valley Project, USA). However, concerns regarding the welfare of indigenous people, ~~as~~ flora, fauna, peasants must also be taken care of.

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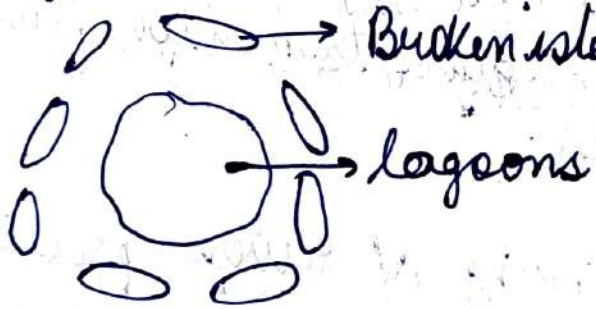
6) How are atolls formed? Discuss the threats faced by them due to anthropogenic factors

Atolls are circular lagoons and broken islets formed by the actions of deposition by the oceans and the consequent actions of corals. eg: Bikini Atolls



Atolls

Atolls comprise of shallow lagoons, islets, sandbars which are interrupted in between ~~due~~ to allow passage of freshwater. Corals, marine fishes, are found in abundance.

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Threats to atolls due to anthropogenic factors

↳ Coral bleaching leading to destruction of coral reefs.

↳ Ocean water acidification leading to rendering of atolls inhospitable for species.

↳ Increase in sea water due to climate change and thermal water expansion causing submergence of atolls.

↳ Plastic pollution, oil spills, unsustainable tourism has further harmed the ~~co~~ atolls.

~~Corals~~ Atolls represents hotspots in biodiversity. They must be preserved and protected. Initiatives like Eco-litter to contain plastic pollution are in the right direction. Convention on preventing marine pollution must be implemented strictly.

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(7) Foaming in the beginning of winter in River Yamuna in and around Delhi has been in news. Identify the reasons behind this and discuss its larger impact.

River Yamuna originates in the Yamunotri glaciers of Uttarakhand and joins Ganges at Sangam, Prayagraj.

Yamuna – Most polluted river.
↳ Frothing in winter

↳ Emissions from industrial towns of Panipat, Delhi – Untreated liquid effluents discharged from factories lead to foaming in the river.

↳ Agriculture runoffs – chemical fertilisers, pesticides and surface runoff further accentuates froth forming

↳ Lack of rains, further leads to concentration of Chemicals in the river.

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Impact of froathing

↳ Leads to poisoning of the floodbanks

↳ Harmful effect on human health, land animals eg: contaminated drinking water.

↳ Fishes die in the river due to lack of oxygen dissolved.

↳ Leads to unsustainability in urban development - Eg: Delhi is consistently ranked among least leveable cities of the world.

The river Yamuna must be properly managed on lines of National Ganga Mission. Integrated approach involving all stakeholders must be adopted. Ministry of environment and Ministry of Urban development must work in tandem to ensure eradication of the froath formation. National Green Tribunal's recommendation must be adopted

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(8) Explain the process of formation of a Tsunami. Also, mention the tsunami preparedness and mitigation efforts taken by the government

Tsunami is the enormous sea-waves which engulf entire coastlines via extremely high waves flowing at extremely high speeds. eg. Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004)

Formation of Tsunami

↳ Tsunami formed via vast disturbances of sea water due to earthquakes, underwater volcanoes, meteriote impact or avalanches.

↳ As a result, enormous waves with high amplitude are created due to displaced energy

↳ As they approach the coast, the amplitude decreases, speed and height increases, crashing into the shore

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destroying everything on its way.

Tsunami ~~earthq~~ preparedness & Mitigation in India

↳ NDMA is the nodal agency for disaster management.

↳ Tsunami Vulnerability mapping (with collab of Ministry of earth sciences & ISRO) has being done.

↳ India is a part of all Tsunami warning systems around the globe. eg: India is member of Pacific Tsunami warning system.

↳ India has developed its own Indian Tsunami Early warning system along with INCOIS.

↳ System of seismic movement detection centers established nationwide.

↳ ISRO's GAGAN & NAVIC equipment promoted to prevent loss of lives.

↳ District authorities - point of contact between NDMA and Gram Sabhas undertake regular sensitisation and disaster readiness exercises in vulnerable areas.

Tsunamis represent the destructive nature of the environment. Vulnerability towards it must be reduced.

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(4) Discuss the role of geospatial technologies in developing effective approaches for disaster risk reduction and disaster management

Geospatial Technology represents mapping of all techno objects that occupy place on the surface of the Earth. It involves - Radiomapping, GPS and Geospatial information system

Geospatial Technology - Role in Disaster risk reduction

[Pre disaster]

↳ Helps in vulnerability mapping.

eg: Mapping of landslide prone areas of India was undertaken with help of Geospatial Technology.

↳ Helps in forming database of high risk populations, structures and infrastructure. eg: mapping of bridges, dams, railway lines

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During Disaster

↳ It helps in establishing contact with disaster struck people.

↳ Helps in ~~ref ret~~ identification of lost, stuck people and relief and rescue operations. eg. During Uttarakhand floods, GPS technology was used to ~~identify~~ locate people stuck at Kedarnath.

Post disaster

↳ Helps in rehabilitation of people and lives, by, helping in supply of food, medicine, water.

↳ Focusing on 'Building back better' in the future.

Geospatial technology is the positive development in curtailing vulnerability towards disaster. This technology must be further developed and implemented to ensure "zero casualty" in disasters.

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10) Discuss the key challenges in implementation of school safety. How does the National Policy on Disaster Management seek to address these challenges

Schools involve children who are among the most vulnerable sections of the society. e.g. Fires in Schools, Coaching centres at Surat.

Challenges in implementation of School Safety

↳ Students are very vulnerable — they are very low risk tolerant, prone to injury, mortality.

↳ School infrastructure is already very constrained especially in the rural areas.

↳ Adult supervision in schools is very low due to the poor teacher-student ratio in India.

↳ Curriculum of schools less focused towards disaster risk reduction.

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National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009

↳ Identifies children as vulnerable population.

↳ Focuses on improving school infrastructure to prevent structural collapse during earthquakes, cyclones.

↳ Encourages regular drills, trainings for evacuations during disasters.

↳ Incorporate disaster management in the curriculum and syllabus.

↳ Disaster-friendly structures like fire-exits, alarms, water-hydration systems made mandatory.

School going children are among the most vulnerable — they must be properly trained and educated to ensure their safety during disasters. The National Education Policy is in the right direction

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(11) Post drift theories based on ocean floor mapping provided new dimensions to the study of distributions of oceans and continents. Elaborate

The Continental drift Theory focused on the mass movements of the continents, after, breaking away from the supercontinent Pangeae. Proposed by alfred wagner.
The post continental drift involved Hess's Seafloor spreading Theory.

The Sea floor Spreading Theory

↳ Focused on the aspect that ocean relief is younger than continents

↳ Along the newly formed rocks deep underneath, either sides showed remarkable similarities in characteristics and ~~nature~~ properties

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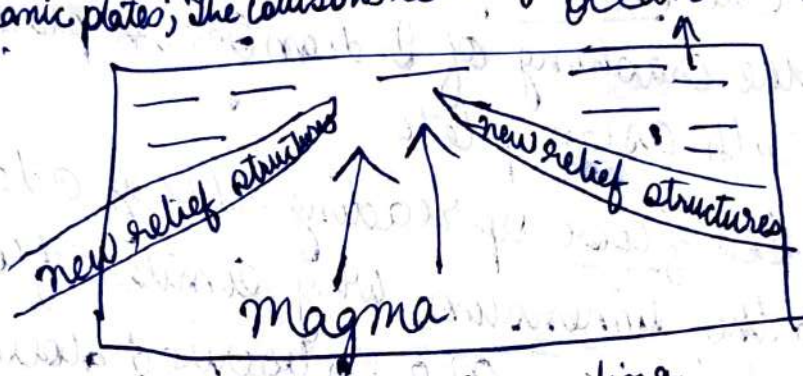
→ Thus, it could be concluded that rocks were created deep underneath leading to formation of new reliefs and geographical structure

→ Plate tectonics Theory states that continent plates float over oceanic plates; The collisons lead to formation of relief features.



Sea floor spreading

New dimensions to study of Oceans & Continents

↳ Justified many new doubts and concerns regarding the existing theories.

↳ Example: The great pacific ring of fire lead to creation of mid oceanic ridges of Pacific.

↳ Ocean mapping explored Pacific trenches.

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↳ The submerged continent of New-Zealandia justified.

↳ The formation of the African Rift Valley concluded.

↳ The Himalayas were formed by the crashing of Indian ~~Ocean~~ plate with asian plate.

↳ Sea floor spreading theory added to the dimension why similar flora and fauna are observed globally.

↳ Sea floor theory gave rise to the Theory of Plate tectonics which further justified diatrophisms, earthquakes, volcanoes, faultlines.

Thus, we can conclude, that Seafloor mapping, helped, add new dimensions to the study of distributions of oceans and continents!

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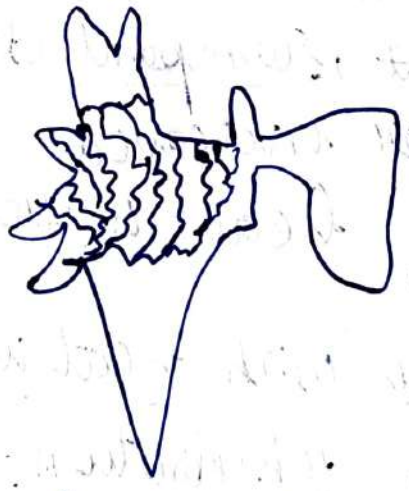
(15) Explain the phenomenon of Heat waves. Also Enumerate the conditions favourable for development of heat waves in India and their associated health impacts.

Heat waves is the continuous above normal temperature over a certain region for 3-5 days.

Heat waves leads to higher temperatures, low humidity and localised hot winds (called loo):

Development of heat waves in India

→ Heat waves common in North & West India and the Deccan Peninsula



↑ Heat Wave Prone regions of India

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Conditions favourable for Heat Waves in India

↳ Intense summer heat during April & May.

↳ Continental effect as North India is located faraway from Coast.

↳ Absence of monsoons, local rainfalls in the summer months.

↳ Low-pressure region formed due to intense heating of the continental landmass.

↳ Very low humidity in the region.

↳ No westerly jet streams which carry moisture during summers.

↳ Intense ~~unsustainable human development~~, rampant deforestation has further increased the impact of heat waves in India.

Health Issues with heat waves

↳ It causes dehydration among humans & animals due to lowering

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of water tables.

↳ Loo leads to summer strokes, high body pressure and summer diarhoea, body aches.

↳ Heat waves lead to tiredness, loss of energy, which, further impacts productivity.

↳ Hypertension, is observed among vulnerable population.

While, the heat waves cannot be escaped in India, its impact can be minimized by afforestation, sustainable urban developments. Ayurvedic remedies and Yoga can help curtail the health impact of heat waves.

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12. Elaborate various factors that determine the nature of circulation of the oceanic currents. Also, highlight the major oceanic currents along with their unique features.

Oceanic circulations are vast movements of oceanic water along set directions. eg. Humbolt current, California current.

The factors that determine Oceanic Current

↳ Planetary winds : eg. Westerlies drive ocean waters towards western parts of the continents.

↳ Shape of the continents. eg. Tapering shape of south america impacts the Peru current.

↳ Salinity of ocean : Ocean currents mingle to ensure stasis in the salinity

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↳ Rotation of the Earth : Coriolis effect pushes water in anticlockwise direction in northern hemisphere and vice versa in the southern hemisphere.

↳ The temperature of the oceans too impact the direction of ocean currents
eg: Cold labrador current flows ~~in~~ from the polar Canadian region into newfoundland bay.

Major Oceanic currents along with unique features

Atlantic Ocean

South.	
Benguela Current	· Warm Current ; Along west African Coast · Flows from Equator towards Antartic
Brazilian Current	· Cold Current ; Along Brazilian Coast · Flows from Antartica towards Equator.
North.	
Gulf Current	· Warm Current · Along Gulf of Mexico
Canary Current	· ~~Warm~~ Cold Current · Along western Europe & Africa Coast
Labrador Current	· Cold Current · Along New Foundland Coast

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Pacific Ocean

Peru Current	· Cold Current · Along Peru Coast
California Current	· Cold current · Along California Coast
Okhotsk Current	· Cold Current · Along Japan Coast
Kuroshia Current	· Warm Current · Along the Japan Coast

Indian Ocean

Agulhas Current, west Australian Current dominate the Indian Ocean

The Oceanic Currents play a major role in maintaining optimum conditions on the Earth via regulation of temperature, rainfall and humidity.

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(14) Despite being polar regions, the environmental threats faced by Arctic region are highly accentuated as compared to Antartica. Comment. Also, discuss the measurements needed to protect the Arctic ecosystem.

The polar regions are the area above the 66.5° latitude in the Northern and the Southern Continent

↑ Polar regions of Earth

Environmental threats for Polar regions

- Global warming
- Sea level rising
- Melting of glaciers

→ leading to environmental threats in Arctic & Antartica.

Arctic Regions - Accentuated threats

↳ Arctic region comparatively has higher vulnerability compared to Antartica.

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↳ Ar Reasons for the accentuated threat

→ Arctic region is comprised of Seas and Oceans eg: Arctic Ocean; whereas, Antartica is a continent.

→ Arctic region more closer to global north, and, hence direct impact of anthropogenic activities.

→ Arctic region is densely populated compared to Antartica.

→ Arctic region – vested mineral interests (eg: Arctic oil & natural gas), whereas, mining is banned in Antartica.

→ Arctic region is a major shipping lane, hence, vulnerable to marine pollution.

→ Antartica Treaty, 1950 preserves the Antartica, whereas, Arctic region has no such treaties for protection.

→ Arctic receives more solar insolation compared to Antartica

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Measures to protect Arctic Ecosystem:

- Banning of unsustainable shipping and mineral mining in the region.
- Protection to indigenous communities inhabitating the regions. eg: Inuits of Greenland.
- Unsustainable fishing practices like seafloor dredging must be prohibited.
- Paris peace agreement — zero carbon emissions by 2050 must be enforced.
- Stockholm convention on POP must be implemented.
- Arctic Ocean must be declared a marine protected zone.
- Countries must adopt internally recognized treaties for preserving Arctic region on similar lines to the Antartica treaty, 1959

Arctic region represents global hotspots for the world. The entire region must be protected as it is a carbon sinkhole for the Earth. India's National Arctic Policy is in the right direction as it promotes sustainability to the region

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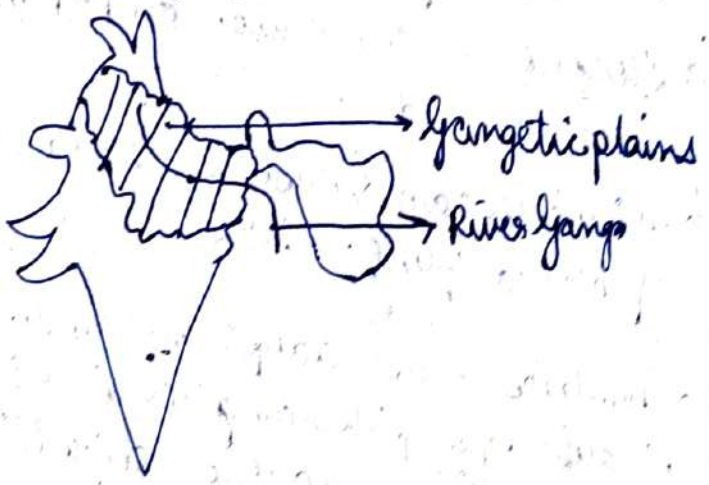
(15) Explaining the formation of Great Northern Plains of India, describe its physiographic divisions and their important characteristics

The Great Northern Plains are the rich alluvial floodplains of the Indian subcontinent formed by depositions of Ganges and its tributaries.



↑ Great Northern Plains of India

Formation of Great Northern Plains

→ The rivers of Ganga, Yamuna, Kosi, Ghaghra and so on carry enormous sediments due to widespread

erosion while flowing in its upper course along the Himalayas.

→ These sediments get deposited along the floodplains, when, the river floods annually.

→ Over the vast years, these deposits led to the formation rich alluvial plains of India.

Physiographic divisions of Northern Plains

Punjab Plains: Drained by the 5 rivers - Ravi, Chenab, Beas, Sutlej, Jhelum.

Utter Pradesh Plains: Drained by Ganges and its tributaries Yamuna, Gomati.

Bihar Plains: Kosi, Ghaghara, Son are important tributaries. They are very prone to flooding

Bengal Plains: Represents lower course of the Ganga, which splits into Hoogly and Padma, ultimately draining into Bay of Bengal.

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Characteristics of the Great Northern Plains

↳ Rich alluvial flatlands.
↳ Absence of hilly terrains, relief features.
↳ Floodplains, Meandering observed
↳ very wide in geographical reach
↳ Bhangar represents the older alluvium — sandy and less fertile.
↳ Khadar represents the newer alluvium — clayey and very fertile.

The great northern plains is a very important region as it supports millions of population and provides food — water. It is rightly called "Food basket of India"

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(16) In recent years, Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh have witnessed an alarming increase in the rates of landslides. Discuss the reasons for such increase and suggest remedial measures.

Landslides is the sudden, abrupt movement of the top layer of the soil leading to widespread destruction of life and property.

Landslide vulnerability of India

Landslide - Uttarakhand and Himachal
↳ Rise in vulnerability of these states

Primary Reasons
↳ Indiscriminate human construction
eg. Shimla is now regarded as "concrete jungle".

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↳ Enormous dams, hydro-electric projects. eg: Ganga-Tehri Dam (Uttarakhand)

↳ Increase in deforestation along the Himalayan Alpine forests and temperate forests.

↳ Incessant road constructions using coal tar, asphalt.

↳ Unsustainable tourism has put a stress on the region. eg: Increase in popularity of Char Dham Yatras

↳ Erratic nature of Indian Monsoons has further increased vulnerability.

Remedial Measures for Preventing Landslides

↳ Focus on building sustainability in human settlement, construction. eg: environment friendly locally available materials must be used for construction (Bamboos).

→ Sustainable Tourism must be encouraged eg National policy on promoting sustainable tourism must be adopted.

→ Dams, large infrastructure projects must be implemented only after clearances from Environmental Impact Assessment

→ National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem must be developed further.

→ ~~Afo~~ Afforestation projects must be taken up. eg: National mission for Green India.

→ Recommendations of Gadgil committee and Kasturirangan committee must be adopted.

The himalayan regions of Himachal and Uttarakhand must be protected. Ministry of ~~Et~~ environment and climate change, along with, NGT must take pro-active states along with NDMA to curtail landslides in the region.

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(17) Haphazard growth and poor management make the Indian cities the locus of disasters, both big and small. Comment. Also, discuss the current gaps in policies in addressing these challenges.

Around 33% of Indians live in cities currently, which is expected to rise to 55% by 2050.

Indian cities
- Haphazard growth
- Inadequate planning
- No proper management

} Hotbeds for Disaster

→ Packed spaces, dense populations, lack of disaster resilient infrastructure have tremendously increased vulnerability of Indian cities towards disasters both major and minor ones.

eg: Chennai Urban floods, Kolkata Amphan Cyclone, Latur earthquakes.

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Gaps in policies for Urban disaster Mgmt:

↳ The NDMA Act, 2009 empowers the Central and State governments, but there is very little devolution of powers for disaster management to Urban Local Bodies.

↳ There is lack of developmental plans for the expanding cities; which, has led to development of slums, narrow congested lanes, absence of supporting infrastructure (hospitals, fire stations)

↳ No planning — lack of policy towards maintaining urban environment sustainable
eg: Incessant cutting of trees to promote and build urban infrastructure.

↳ Thus, we observe lapses in policy making among major ministries —
- MoHome Affairs (NDMA)
- MoEnvironment, forest, climate change
- MoUrban development and Housing

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Wayforward

↳ Urban development authorities comprising of all stakeholders must be developed.

↳ Focus on building disaster resilient infrastructure must be ensured.

↳ Sendai framework recommendations must be adopted.

↳ Science & technology reforms must be adopted in disaster management.
eg: IFLOWS adopted in Chennai & Mumbai to control urban floods.

→ International best practices must be adopted. eg: Tokyo earthquake relief and evacuation model to be adopted.

→ Recommendations of 2nd ARC committee report on disaster management must be implemented.

With rising migration from rural areas, the vulnerability of cities must be curtailed to ensure minimum loss to property & lives from disasters

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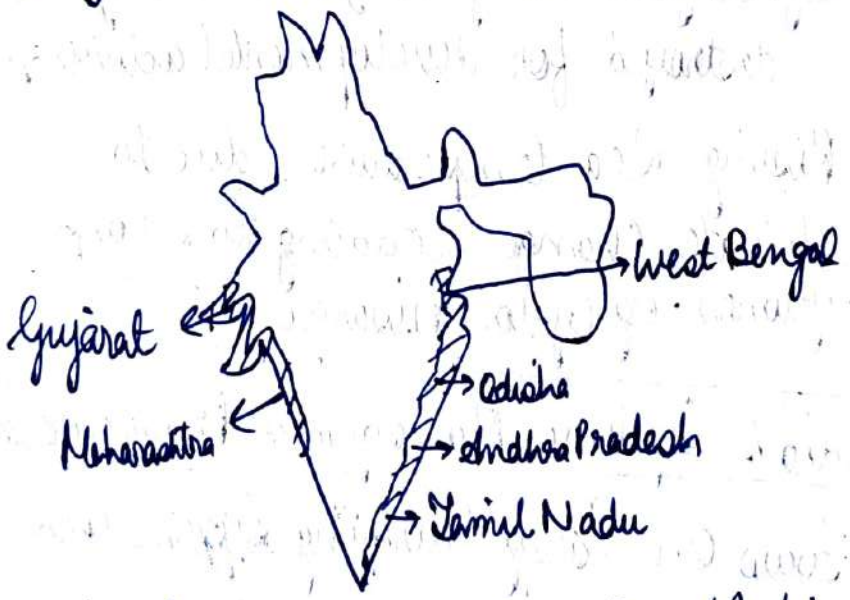
(18) What are the reasons behind the vulnerability of coastal areas to cyclones in India. In this context, critically discuss India's cyclone management framework.

Cyclones are areas of low pressure zones surrounded by areas of high pressure zones. They are associated with very high speed winds and very heavy rainfalls.

Vulnerability of coastal areas in India

The entire East coast of India & Gujarat-Maharashtra Coast on Arabian Sea are highly vulnerable to cyclones.



↑ Cyclone vulnerable regions of India

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Reasons behind the Vulnerability in Bay of Bengal

↳ Bay of Bengal more vulnerable than the Arabian Sea.

↳ Higher Temperatures in the Bay of Bengal

↳ Bow Shaped Arc of the Eastern Coast

↳ Cyclones travel from East to West in the northern hemisphere.

Vulnerability in the East & West Coast

↳ Higher Concentration of population along the coastlines - Gujarat, Maharashtra & the East Coast

↳ Destruction of mangroves forest
eg: Gujarat mangroves, Odisha mangroves destroyed for developmental activities.

↳ Rising Sea temperatures due to climate change leading to stronger cyclones. eg: Cyclone Nisarga

India's Cyclone Management Framework

↳ Focus on Early Warning System and dissemination of information via radios, local channels.

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→ Disaster resilient infrastructure built in vulnerable areas - eg: Odisha.

→ Post disaster recovery via NDRF, local authorities and district administration

→ Cyclone Management framework in India has reduced loss of lives in India.
eg: Cyclones in Odisha would kill lakhs in 1990s, but, now deaths due to cyclone drastically reduced to single digits.

→ Post disaster recovery, infrastructure building happens on war-footing.
However, due to greater intensity and frequency of cyclones occuring, the Cyclone management framework of India must be revamped to ensure zero-loss via further devolution of power to local authorities (Gram Sabhas, ULBs) and adoption of Science and technology. The recommendations of the 2nd ARC report on disaster risk reduction must be implemented further.

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(19) To build greater resilience among communities, it is important to avoid looking at disaster events in isolation and under the interconnections between global disasters. Elaborate, with examples.

Disaster resilience means building of capacity and ability among the vulnerable population to ensure sustainability and protection from disasters

Disasters - interconnected and not Isolated.

↳ Disasters are a global phenomenon, as they are interconnected with each other.

eg. Sumatran Earthquake resulted in the great Indian Tsunami (2004)

↳ Disasters set off a chain of reactions which lead to a domino effect

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Candidates must not write on this margin

eg: The great Japan Earthquake (2011) led to the Pacific Ocean Tsunami and further lead to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear meltdown.

→ The geographic nature of the Earth is such that all the regions are ~~int~~ related directly or indirectly

eg: Volcanic eruptions in Hawaii and Iceland are often simultaneously observed.

→ The amazon wildfires lead to apocalyptic situations worldwide.

→ The melting of Arctic Oceans has lead to increase in heatwaves, droughts worldwide.

→ The Australian wildfires in 2021, was, associated with floods in India due to excessive monsoon.

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→ The Corona Pandemic has cemented the fact that disaster events are globally interconnected and not isolated events

Wayforward

↳ Focus must be made on international disaster resilience infrastructure.
eg: Coalition for disaster resilience (CADR) led by India

↳ International common standards must be followed. eg: Sendai framework on disaster

↳ International environmental ~~commitm~~ commitments must be upheld. eg: Paris peace agreement, Stockholm convention.

↳ Multilateral Organisation Mechanisms like BRICS disaster resilience, SCO Disaster reduction Coalition must be encouraged.

Resilience to disaster and reduce vulnerability is the only wayforward for the humanity. It will help us achieve the SDG 11.

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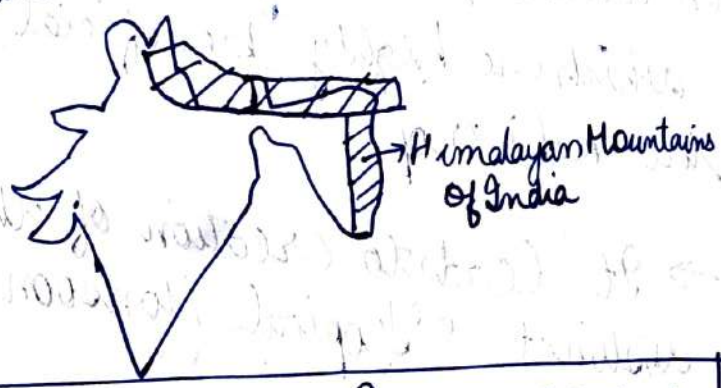
(20) How does the Himalayan mountain range shape the climate of the Indian subcontinent? Also, discuss the impact of the warming of the Himalayas on the Indian subcontinent.

The Himalayan mountain ranges are the young fold mountains created when the Indian plate collided with the Asian plate.



Himalayan Mountains - Indian Climate

↳ Regulate the Indian Subcontinent's Climate.

↳ Acts as a mighty barrier preventing cold winter winds from Siberia to reach Indian plains.

Hence, prevents, bitter cold in winters.

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→ Prevents Monsoon winds from escaping the Indian subcontinent. without, Himalayas, Indian subcontinent would be a dry desert

→ It intercepts the westerly disturbances in winters, causing winter rains which are highly beneficial for the Rabi crops.

→ It leads to creation of the distinct "Tropical Monsoon Climate" of India

Impact of warming of the Himalayas

↳ Due to the suspended particulate matters, increased greenhouse emissions Himalayas are melting

↳ It will lead to flooding in the northern plains

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→ Destruction in the Himalayan States by landslides, flashfloods and glacial lake outbursts.

→ Will lead to drier, warmer summers causing heatwaves, droughts.

→ Will harm the food security of the vast Indian population.

Thus, the Himalayas play a pivotal role in the protection of the Indian Subcontinent from the perils of harsh weather. ~~See~~ Q. The national mission on sustaining the himalayan ecosystem is in the right direction to preserve and protect the fragile geographical region.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	chaitanya khemani		
Medium Eng./Hindi	eng	**Registration Number**	746087
Center	online	**Date**	30aug

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
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6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
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19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss.

India's investigative agencies include the CBI, ED, NIA and so on.

Recently, the CJI had called upon the merging of various investigative agencies into a single independent body.

Need for an independent umbrella body

(1) Lack of credibility among them.
eg: RTI doesn't cover CBI.

(2) Erosion of public trust due to increased politicisation
eg: Supreme Court calling CBI a "caged parrot"

(3) Issues with federal relation.
eg: West Bengal withdrawing the

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"general consent"

(4) Lack of credible, dedicated cadre with considerable financial autonomy.

Way forward

(1) Increasing synergies among the investigative bodies to ensure credibility.

(2) Establishment of independent ~~Statut~~ constitutional ~~bo~~ umbrella body to ensure independence.

(3) Adequate consultation with the states, for, the issue of "general consent"

Establishing an independent umbrella body will facilitate in creation of credible investigative body.

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2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.

2

The doctrine of "pith" & "substance" states that the fundamental core issue of the legislation determines the constitutionality of the law.

The doctrine of ~~pot~~ "colourable legislation" states that a law/principle which cannot be attained/established directly, cannot, be granted constitutional status indirectly.

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Significance with respect to Centre-state relations

(1) These principles were first established when the state of West Bengal had a case with Indian Union in the Supreme Court.

(2) The state of Haryana couldn't provide reservation for locals in jobs on article 16, as it was violative, of the article 14.

(3) The provisions have helped in establishment of the Niti Ayog and the concept of "cooperative federalism" by providing for jurisdiction of Supreme Court under Article 131.

Thus, we can say, that these principles have established "~~p~~ rule of law" and "due process of law" in India, to establish a smooth federal structure.

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3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments.

(3) Simultaneous elections in Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies have recently being proposed by many civil society organisations

Arguments in favour of simultaneous election

(1) It provides continuity in governance as, the, model code of conduct hampers governance.

(2) It provides curb on election expenditure. Article 77 of RPA1951, has figured ~~that~~ exponential rise in election expenditure.

(3) Synergies in election process, as, the officers in charge of conducting

the election under RPA1950, attain, economies of scale.

Arguments against Simultaneous elections

(1) Regular elections help check the ~~gov~~ political parties and make them sensitive to the issues of the people.

(2) Simultaneous elections will lead to predominance of national issues and ignoring the local issues.

(3) Limited capacity of the Election Commission of India (Article 324) to conduct such elections due, to limited EVM machines, officers etc.

(4) Difficulty in co-ordination between centre & states

Simultaneous elections as, should be, implemented only with partial fu state funding as suggested in 2nd ARC report to help reform the elections

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4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them.

(4) Article 105 of the constitution provides for individual and Collective privileges to the members of parliament.

Need for codifications of the privileges

(1) Some of the privileges are in contradiction with Article 19.
eg; Freedom of speech and expression with reasonable restriction, subverted, by blanket immunity on speeches given on floor of parliament.

(2) Parliamentary privileges are in contradiction with the Indian Judiciary system. eg: freedom from

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jury duty and appearing as witness leads, to delay in justice delivery.

(3) Few parliamentary privileges are too broad, and, provide ~~large~~ excess freedom. eg: freedom from arrest 40 days prior to commencement of session.

Way forward

(1) The parliamentary privileges ~~may~~ must be relooked upon with adequate consultation with all stakeholders.

(2) The privileges must be codified to remove ambiguity and confusion.

(3) Judiciary must ensure that these privileges are consistent with fundamental rights.

Parliamentary privileges must strike right balance to ensure smooth functioning of the parliament and protection of individual rights.

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5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse.

(5) The Article 312 provides for a Civil service bureaucracy in India, and the institution of Civil Services Board was created to regulate it.

Civil Services board - Role in effectiveness

(1) Civil services board, help, in determining the postings, transfers, promotions of the bureaucracy.

(2) Its recommendations help in determining the central deputation of the all India services.

(3) Thus, they contribute to effectiveness of the bureaucracy, by proper placement as stated by Pigou.

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Civil Services Board — Issues & Challenges

(1) The board is plagued by politicisation and central-state conflict related to central deputation. eg: State of West Bengal prevented its officer from taking up central deputation.

(2) Limited ~~state~~ Standard Operation procedure to determine rules of transfer, promotions and so on.

(3) Frequent transfers of few officers raises questions on its impartiality. eg: Ashok Khemka, IAS transferred multiple times in few years.

Way forward

(1) Subramaniam ~~Baba~~ Case judicial pronouncement which ensures political neutrality must be adopted.

(2) Civil services board must be revamped to make a autonomous body.

Civil Service board, when revamped, will help establish transformative new age bureacracy.

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6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India.

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(6) The Indian Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 was recently adopted by state of Meghalaya to transform service delivery.

Potential of IndEA 2.0

(1) It will help transform service delivery by establishing "Sevottam" model, and, "e-Kranti model".

(2) Focusing on "last-mile delivery" will help establish new age governance, as proposed, by 2nd ARC report on E-governance.

(3) It will transform public infrastructure development by

ensuring transparency, accountability and ~~refo~~ responsibility.

(4) It will ensure better public fund management by establishing Digital public fund information management system.

Challenges in IndEA 2.0

(1) Issues with regards to data breaches and potential misuse due to malwares, trojan attacks, phisings.

(2) Concerns regarding digital privacy and "right to be forgotten"

(3) Lack of consistent application across states has led to creation of digital divide.

Way forward

(1) Focus on "Data privacy laws" must be made.

(2) Cybersecurity norms must be revamped

(3) Digital literacy, viz, schemes like PM Disha must be implemented.

IndEA2.0 will help in providing modern age service delivery to the citizens

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7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(7) "Civil Registration System" refers to the procedure to recording live births and providing identity to the new borns.

Recently, the government has proposed immediate "Civil registration system" via Online system.

Importance of the System

(1) It provides identity and a legal status to the new born.

(2) It ensures better record maintenance of new borns, which, help the government formulate new policies and schemes.

(3) Civil registration helps the child, the mother and the family avail

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government facilities and welfare schemes.
eg: PM Suman provides monetary grant on registration of the child.

Measures taken by the government

(1) It has proposed development of Online System of registration.

(2) It has facilitated offline registration by providing immediate single window services as well.

Challenges associated with the measures

(1) Online registration might not be helpful in rural areas, as, only 38% are digitaly literate as per MeiTy report.

(2) Offline registration is not hassle-free in the rural areas, as, cases of corruption is observed.

Way forward

(1) Online registration must be promoted by via awareness sessions.

(2) & Gartner Model on service delivery to be adopted.

Civil Registration System will help India attain demographic potential and dividend

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8.The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss.

(8) Ban Dry latrines and collection of night soil was banned in India under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, especially the Valmiki Caste.

Effective Mechanism for Empowerment

(1) It has helped in health and sanitation of the Safai Karamcharis

(2) It has helped removed prejudices and existing taboos in the society.

(3) It provides for alternate professions for the Safai Karamcharis.

eg: National Safai Karamchari finance & development corporation established.

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(4) The National Commission of Scheduled Castes (under Article 338A) ensures effective implementation of the law.

(5) The law has facilitated introduction of robots like Bandicoot to clean manholes & sewers.

Issues with the law

(1) Continuous deaths continue to occur of the Safai Karamcharies while cleaning the septic tanks.

(2) Continued prejudice against Safai Karamcharies is prevalent in the society. eg: National Crime Record bureau had opined more than 5 lakh cases in of Dalit atrocity in the last decade.

Way forward

(1) Focus on societal reforms via reservation for Safai Karamcharies must be made.

(2) Education, skill development among the members to be promoted.

Emancipation of Manual Scavengers will help India attain Objectives of Civil Rights Act 1955.

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9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system.

9

The World Trade Organisation is a multilateral organisation established by the Uruguay Rounds and Doha Negotiations

Vulnerabilities existing in present global trades

(1) Covid-19 exposed the high vulnerability of the global supply chains.

(2) Developed countries are prejudiced against developing countries, with, the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures against agriculture commodity.

(3) Covid19 vaccines faced hurdles with regards to IP rights of WTO.

(4) Bali peace Clause, and, the De-minimis clause leads to excessive interference

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
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(5) Reforms needed in the WTO for supply chains

(1) E-Commerce rules must be revamped to ensure prejudice free trades.

(2) Geneva package must be implemented to reform fishing subsidies.

(3) WTO must prevent usage of ~~tarata~~ non tariff barriers like sanitary measures against the developing countries.

(4) Establishment of rules based "country-of-origin" norms must be established.

(5) WTO appellate tribunal for grievance redressal must be made operational.

(6) "Amber box" system to be banned. WTO must be reformed to ensure development of rules-based global trade.

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10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

10. The UN Convention on the law of seas was established with the objective of the freedom of the seas, and, establishing rules-based high seas and international waters.

Significance of UNCLOS

1. It has prevented rise in piracy, smuggling and organised crimes in the high seas.
2. It has helped settle international maritime disputes across nations.
3. It strives to prevent environmental protection by preventing dredging, release of toxic fuel in the Ocean waters, dumping of wastages.
4. UNCLOS strives to ~~aop~~ establish rule

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based international transit of trades and people.

Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction – need

(1) The BBNJ Agreement was strives to protect marine flora and fauna, from, extinction due to climate change and excessive human intervention.

(2) It strives to ban unethical fishing such as, seafloor dredging and whaling being done by Japan.

(3) It strives to promote clean fuel among the ships and vessels, and, also prevent oil spills.

(4) Making, the agreement legally binding will help achive SDG 14 (Life underwater)

The high seas must be conserved and protected. BBNJ agreement will help support the London and the MARPOL convention

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11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India.

(11) The Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 established the National Human Rights Commission to act as watchdog of human rights in India. Recently, NHRC investigated in the Post Poll violence in West Bengal.

NHRC – Positive Role played

(1) NHRC has played pivotal role in protecting rights of prisoners, trafficking victims, women, and other vulnerable members.

(2) It has the power of civil court to help play the role of watchdog.

(3) It has also promoted research into protecting and preventing human rights violations in India; It also visits prisons to ensure well-being of prisoners.

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(4) NHRC can take up suo-moto cases in cases, where, it feels human rights were violated.

(5) NHRC ensures India upholds the United Nations Conventions on human Rights

(6) NHRC acts as the watchdog by recommending ~~prom~~ solutions to the government for emancipation of the aggrieved.

(7) NHRC submits to the parliament an annual report, with suggestions for ~~pro~~ promotion of human rights.

NHRC - Issues & Challenges

(1) Limited jurisdiction - as it cannot take up cases beyond one year.

(2) It's power is merely "recomendatory" hence, it cannot serve the role of effective watchdog.

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(3) Lack of dedicated cadres of professions to improve efficiency of the commission to prevent human rights violation.

Way forward

(1) NHRC must be made a constitutional body

(2) It should be granted powers to investigate matters beyond one year.

(3) The report that it submits to the parliament, must, be careful evaluated by parliamentary committees, and, explanations for non-adherence to its recommendations must be provided and published on national portal.

(4) Financial autonomy and dedicated cadre must be raised

~~Not~~ NHRC will help provide "rights based" environment for development of the Indian people.

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12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums.

12 The Swapnil Tripathi Case provided for use of ICT in the ~~develop~~ dispute resolution processes.

Integration of ICT in dispute resolution

1. It will provide and further the Article 21 – right to justice.
2. It will help ease burden on the overburdened physical judicial infrastructure
3. Provide for faster delivery of justice, via, tools like SUPACE which uses artificial intelligence to expediate justice.
4. Live streaming of court cases will help in promoting and raising awareness among the backward classes.

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(5) e-Court Mission Mode project will further the cause of judicial accountability and transparency

(6) ICT will help in promoting the alternative Dispute resolution mechanisms like Arbitration, Mediation, conciliations. ICT is a prominent compononent of "Singapore Convention on mediation"

Challenges in ~~Establish~~ integration of ICT in dispute resolution

(1) There is stark of digital divide (approx. 38% rural population is only digitaly literate). ICT might lead to further divide and distrust in judicial process.

(2) Lack of adequate digital governance laws in India, which, might lead to potential cyber breaches and data leakages.

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(3) Cyber attacks, espionage across border by enemy state may cripple judicial system of the country.

(4) Lack of adequate financial resources, limited technology available is preventing effective delivery & implementation of the ICT in the dispute resolution process.

Way forward

(1) Cybersecurity laws must be made effective, as recommeded by Srikrishna Committee.

(2) Govt. must promote Online dispute resolutions especially in lower courts under Article 233 & 234.

(3) Focus on building digital infrastructure like PMWANI scheme to be done
ICT in dispute resolution will help ~~fut~~ fulfil the article 39A, i.e, equal justice for all.

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13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

13. The current lok sabha has 43% of its members with pending cases, and, 29% MPs having serious crime cases pending.

RPA 1951 – Resolving the rise in crimes

(1) Provisions of RPA 1951 like, Article 8, prevents, ~~aco~~ convicts from contesting the elections.

(2) RPA, 1951 aims to break nexus ~~of~~ ~~between~~ finance between politicians and criminals. eg: Article 75 mentions that ~~winning candidates~~ candidates must file expenditure they incurred on fighting elections.

(3) Article 29(C) prevents hate speeches, inciting violence to prevent criminalization of the elections.

(4) RPA 1951, follows, adequate norms for Media to help fight criminalization in elections, eg: Media handouts, ban on exit polls etc.

(5) RPA 1951 provides elaborate list for criminal offences and election malpractices like distribution of alcohol, money, removal of ballot from polling booths; corrupt practices of polling agents

Issues at hand - Continuity in criminalization

(1) ~~Cases~~ Undertrial / Cases pending accused can still continue to fight elections.

(2) Lack of transparency in electoral bonds. eg: Section 13(C) of IT Act 1961 leads to opaqueness in the process.

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(3) Inability of ECI under Article 324 to prevent hate speeches, & canvassing of votes in name of castes, religions etc.

Way forward

(1) The Election Commission must be revamped to provide powers for disqualification of corrupt candidates.

(2) Tankha Committee recommendations like audit of candidates must be made.

(3) Indrajit Nohra Commission Recommedations like, providing transparency in finance of political parties to be implemented.

(4) 2nd ARC report proposed partial funding of elections.

Preventing criminalization of politics will help Indian democracy mature and establish "Rule of law"

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14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss.

(14) The 15th finance commission (280) had highlighted the need for the Urban local bodies to be financially buoyant.

ULBs – Need for permanent, buoyant revenue

① The Census 2011, opines that roughly 30% of the Indian population reside in Urban areas. UN World Population Prospect suggests that more than 50% will reside in Urban areas by 2050

② To support the growing population, provide better, new age service delivery, sustainable source of finance must be created for the ULBs under Article 243.

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(3) Current sources of revenue:

(i) Own revenues, via, municipal taxes, providing services like water, sanitation

(ii) From State, via, state finance commission recommendations

(iii) Grants from Centre in the form of tied nature for specific schemes.

Way forward

(1) The 15th finance commission had suggested the following:

(A) Increase in untied nature of funds & grants from the Center.

(B) The states must provide regular streams of revenue, as recommended by the state FCs.

(C) The ULBs, too, must be able to raise its own funds, via:

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(i) Municipal levies, taxes
(ii) Octroi, freight fees.
(iii) Municipal bonds

(2) The Central government must extend the ambit of the FRBM Act, to the, local bodies to ensure sustainability of revenues generated.

(3) CAG ~~xxx~~ (under Article 148), must, Careful ~~exuect~~ audit the books of accounts to ensure sound financial prudence is applied.

(4) Use of ICT, like, Online financial information system must be implemented by the ULBs.

Regular revenue services will help the ULBs provide decentralized services to the residents

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15.The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.

15- The recently passed Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Act 2021 has highlighted the ~~changing~~ increasingly complex role played by Civil Society in India.

Role of CSOs in Contemporary Act

(1) NGOs, voluntary groups, have, increasingly played the role of providing service delivery in areas where govt. is reluctant to approach.
eg. Naz foundation advocated for LGBTQ rights.

(2) ~~Ci~~ Civil society is helping the poor members get essential services
eg. SPARC, Mumbai helped poor people get homes.

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(3) However, the civil society is increasingly playing the role of agitator in the country, as, highlighted in the Right to Mobility Case.

(4) Increased foreign interferences has been observed, which, is leading to domestic disturbances. eg: GoI had to ban funding from Compassion International as it, was accused of proletyzing in north east India.

(5) The world Bank has stated that India loses roughly 2% of GDP due to protests from civil society.

(6) Thus, we can fairly opine that the role of civil society organizations has been rapidly evolving and getting complicated with the passage of time.

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Way forward

(1) National Accredition Rating Council for registration of NGOs must be implemented.

(2) National Policy on Volunteering must be developed to reform the civil society organisations.

(3) Foreign funding of NGOs must be monitored via FCRA Act.

(4) Civil Society Organisations, must be, trained to promote role of facilitator in the country.

Civil Society Organisations can help, the government in fulfiling the objectives of promotion of welfare of the people.

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16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss.

16 On account of Covid-19 reforms, the government of India, suspended, the MP Local area development Scheme for two years.

MPLADS — Addressing inequity in development

(1) MPLADS provides ₹ 5 crores to every MP for undertaking development activities in his constituency based on rec approval by the DM.

(2) MPLADS help MP in contributing to local decentralized development.
eg: Development of sanitation in an unauthorized Colony in his constituency.

(3) MPLADS, thus, help the members of parliament to serve as guardian and fulfil role of "representative of the people".

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MPLADS – Issues in the Scheme

(1) MPLADS led to disparity in the developmental activities, as, most MPs didn't utilize the funds fully.
eg. MP of Pilibhit, Varun Gandhi, was the only MP to utilize the funds fully before time.

(2) Financial irregularities in the usage of funds as highlighted by the CAG.

(3) Conflict between district magistrate & MP with regards to approval of funds, led to upset of ties.

(4) The incumbent MPs got an undue advantage in financial resources, over, the prospective contestants in the upcoming elections, thus, eroding the principle of fair elections.

(5) The funds of MPLADs was often diverted to unnecessary, unproductive work.

Way forward

(1). The 2nd ARC report had suggested permanent suspension of the MPLAPS scheme.

(2) Instead, scheme for decentralized development must be implemented, by, strengthening resources of PRIs & ULBs.

(3) Public fund management system, must, be implemented, with, components of ICT.
eg: Laos public fund management system can be the international best practice, which we can emulate.

Equity in development in India, can, be achieved, via, a bottom up approach and not top-down system of MPLADs.

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17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it.

17

The lockdown imposed, and, the subsequent closure of schools and colleges, led to, emergence of Ed-tech sectors, which combines education, with, the latest information - communication technology.

Factors for growth of Ed-tech sector

1. Increase in growth of ICT penetration among the youth population, and, growth of startups like Unacademy, Byjus, White hat Jr

2. Covid-19 lockdown, led to, closure of physical spaces.

3. Rise in population among tier II, III & IV cities, and, the desire to achieve facilities existing in the Tier I cities, while,

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staying at the comfort of home. eg: Kota coaching institutes are highly stressful for students

Benefits of Ed Tech Sector.

(1) It has led to democratization of the education system, by allowing, ~~too~~ students in ~~tier~~ towns and villages get access to world class facilities.

(2) It has led to better education quality by combining innovation and spirit of science, which, is helping improve pedagogy

(3) It has provided employment to lakhs, by employing teachers, software developers and other support staff.

(4) It has led to growth in wealth of the founders, and, increase in revenue avenues of shareholders. eg: Unacademy will be launching an IPO

(5) Ed-tech sector is comparatively cheaper as compared to conventional coaching classes.

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Concerns with Edtech sector

(1) Technology divide : Rural areas have poor technology penetration as compared to urban centres.

(2) Rich - Poor gap : The poor people have limited access to internet connections, laptops, smart phones.

(3) Harmful for physical & mental health : Staring at the blue screen for hours harms the health of the students.

(4) Edtech sector might be "bubble" like the dotcom bubble, which when burst will harm the investors

Way forward

(1) Govt. must promote channels like Swayam Prabha to promote free edtech classes.

(2) New Education Policy must be implemented in letter and spirit

Edtech sector will help the youth of India usher in Amrit Kaal by attaining demographic dividend

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18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them.

18. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, are, dedicated grassroot health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission.

| Role played by ASHA workers |

1. They help provide primary healthcare facilities to the rural families. eg: First aids for injuries.

2. They promote healthy upbringing of expectant mothers, lactating mothers by providing rations, health supplements under schemes like PM Suman.

3. They ensure health of new-born babies by ensuring proper immunization schedule, ~~prop~~ adequate

breastfeeding is being provided.

(4) They promote sanitation in the villages by promoting awareness about toilets & risks of open defecation.

(5) They promote menstrual hygiene by distributing pads

Challenges to ASHA workers

(1) They aren't considered as permant employees of the government.

(2) They receive a meagre ₹5000 to ₹8000 based on performance.

(3) ASHA workers face prejudice and discrimination from the villagers and community members.

(4) ASHA workers are poorly trained and lack proper skills to manage primary treatment.

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(5) Covid-19 pandemic enacerbated the perils faced by Aashaworkers, as they weren't declared front-line workers

Wayforward

(1) Asha workers must be made regular employees of the government.

(2) Proper training, skill formation must be imparted.

(3) Regular salary, pensions must be provided to the Aasha workers.

(4) Awareness about the importance of Aasha workers must be created in the society.

Aasha Workers will help in bringing healthy life conditions in the rural areas.

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19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context.

(19) August 2021 witnessed the Taliban capturing Kabul, after, the subsequent, withdrawal over the US forces from Afghanistan, after, the war on Terror since 2001

Map of South Asia ↓

Concerns of Taliban Takeover for India

(1) Security Concern: Taliban harboured Al-Qaeda Terrorists, Haqqani networks. It had facilitated the Kandahar hijacking in 1991

(2) Economic Concern (a) India had invested billions in physical infrastructure, like, the Tarbela Dam,

Afghanistan parliament building, numerous highways, and so.

(b) The Chabahar port, which connected India to Central Asia and Afghanistan lost its relevance due to rise of unfriendly regime.

(c) Indian lost access to road routes to Eur-Asia, Central asia, due to Pakistan-Taliban collaboration.

(3) Geopolitical Concern : Beijing recognizing the Taliban government, implied, an unfriendly axis in the northern and western front for India

(4) Humanitarian Concern: India always stood for the Afghan people, and, the Taliban Regime, could inflict, sufferings for Afghanis, especially women & minorities.

India's course of Action

(1) India, could, recognize the Taliban

regime, and, ensure protection of its investments and the afghan people.

(2) India should engage with western powers to ensure safety of the Afghan people.

(3) Multilateral organisations like the SCO, SAARC must be engaged by India to ensure safety of Indian concerns with respect to Taliban Regime.

(4) Suspension of ties, and, not involving in communication with Taliban should, be prevented, as, it doesn't help the concern of Indian government and people.

The Taliban regime provides complex geo-political challenge to the Indian government, which, must be wisely dealt with

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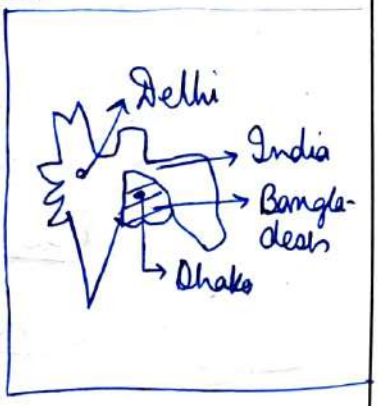
20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

Recently India - Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties.

20. Bangladesh was liberated post 1971 war, with the active involvement of Indian armed forces, helping, the Mukti-Bahini of Bangladesh.



Bangladesh, shares, a porous border with India ranging over rivers, delta, swamps and hills.

India - Neighbourhood First & Act East Policy

① Under the Gujral doctrines, Bangladesh is key component of Neighbourhood ~~policies~~ first policies.

② Bangladesh, sharing, a long border with North East India, and, a land border with Myanmar is also key part of Act East policy of the current government.

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Steps Taken by countries to strengthen Ties

(1) Economic Ties: Numerous land borders across West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura opened up to facilitate ties. eg: Changrabandha border outpost.

(2) Logistic ties: Launching of BBIN Motor Vehicle Initiative, Koladan Multi modal hub to boost logistic ties.

(3) Energy ties: India has helped develop Rooppur power plant in Bangladesh.

(4) Military ties: Joint military exercises like Sampriti to boost military relations.

(5) Cultural ties: Bangabandhu Bhavan in Shantiniketan, ICCR programmes to help integrate cultural ties between people.

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(6) Geo-political ties : Paradiplomacy launched, Hilsa diplomacy, Mango diplomacy to bolster ties between the leaders of the countries launched.

Challenges

(1) Teesta River water sharing issues
(2) Farakka Barrage leading to siltation
(3) Big brother image of India
(4) Cattle smuggling - fake currency issue
(5) Bangladesh — A safe haven for Anti-Indian activities

} Bone of contention between Ties.

Wayforward

(1) India - Bangladesh should foster close economic integration via BIMSTEC and SASEC
(2) People to people connect via tourism and cultural cooperation.

India - Bangladesh close cooperation will help South Asia develop as a super power in global affairs.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1840)

Name of Candidate	CHAITANYA KHEMANI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	**Registration Number**	746087
Center		**Date**	30.08

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. While fixed-term employment offers an ingenious way to address specific issues faced by both employers and employees, there are also some concerns associated with it. Discuss in the context of India.

1. "Fixed-term employment" refers to the concept of hiring an employee for a specified time period as determined in the contract prior to commencement of the service

Advantages & Solutions to issues for Stakeholders

(1) It provides solutions to problems plaguing the employment sector.

Advantage to Employee
- (A) Helps in easily procurement & continuous supply of labour
- (B) Helps in maintaining good industrial relations by promoting industrial peace.

Advantage to Employers
- (A) Provides steady flow of income during the job period
- (B) Removes irregularities, "Hire

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and fire" concept of Employment.

Challenges in the Fin term Employment

1. Poor skill building among the employees.
2. Poor social protection – no pension, employment fringe benefits, accident protection
3. Trade union – Management conflict due to conflicting interests

Way forward

1. The "labour codes" must provide protection to fin term employees.
2. Reskilling fund must be set up.
3. Social Security net must be expanded for fin term employees.

Fin term employment will help in the formalisation of economy.

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2. An efficient logistics sector with a focus on warehousing is pivotal to the success of the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Discuss. (150 words) 10

(2) The World Bank estimates the logistic sector is valued at $215 billion.

Logistic Sector – Warehousing Component

(1) The Bharatmala Pariyojana aims to synergise the multi-modal mix in India, by, attaining Total Quality Management and Business Process Reengineering

(2) Warehousing will play a pivotal role to attain success, by, ensuring adequate supply of goods at proper time & place.

(3) Currently, the Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations

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are involved in providing warehousing facilities

Issues plaguing warehousing sector

(1) Poor inventory management system – non adherence to FIFO principle.

(2) Poor – unscientific storage system / leading to perishability of goods

(3) Lack of ICT connectivity raising concerns with corruption & leakages.

Way forward

(1) Aadhar seeding and electronic negotiable warehousing receipts to catalyse ICT reforms.

(2) Scientific storage, record maintenance will help in attaining efficiencies.

Warehousing will transform the logistic sector and help succeed the Bharatmala Yojana.

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3. What do you understand by the term 'irrigation scheduling'? Bringing out the advantages provided by it, discuss the difficulties faced in applying it on a farm level.

(3) Irrigation scheduling is preparing the timeline for providing irrigation to the farm based on scientific determination of the soil moisture availability, the prevailing weather conditions and, the available water sources

The Advantages of irrigation scheduling

(1) It helps in maintaining water-moisture content, preventing root-rot due to overwatering, or, shrivelling of crops due to underwatering

(2) It helps provide more fertiliser delivery, based, on scientific study.

(3) It helps maintain the ground water table and surface water levels.

(4) It prevents leaching of soil minerals.

Difficulties in farm level

(1) Most of the farm holdings are small in size (less than 1.54 ha as the NAS study); ~~bec~~

(2) Lack of awareness, financial capacity among the already impoverished farmers.

(3) Subsistence style of farming in India which is dependent on ~~of~~ monsoon.

Way forward

(1) "Irrigation scheduling" must be made part of "PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana"

(2) The concept of "More Crop perdrop" must be popularised among farmers.

Irrigation scheduling will help the farmers double their income as suggested by Ashok Dalwai committee.

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4. While the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was touted as the largest crop insurance scheme globally in terms of farmer participation, various concerns have arisen since its implementation. Discuss.

(4) The PM Fasal Bima Yojana was launched with the mandate of providing crop insurance to the farmers.
Recently, it was highlighted that less than 25% of the farmers availed the scheme.

PM – Fasal Bima Yojana – The largest crop Insurance

(1) It covered both Kharif, Rabi and multiple agricultural season crops.

(2) Provided "~~Natural~~ National Crop Insurance portal" for online registration

(3) It provided coverage for both pre-harvest and post-harvest facilities

Concerns with the scheme

(1) Delay in fund/Claim settlement

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(2) Lackdaisal approach of the State government in implementing the scheme.

(3) Limited participation of the private sector insurance companies.

(4) Regional disparity in the ~~fund~~ scheme - Maximum coverage in Punjab and Haryana only.

(5) Low level of awareness among the sharecroppers.

Way forward

(1) PM Fasal Bima Yojana funds must come under ambit of priority lending sector.

(2) Insurance companies should make utilise the funds under Corporate Social Responsibility.

(3) States should adopt proactive implementation by target setting & performance appraisal.

PM Fasal Bima Yojana will help the Indian farmers get sustainable flow of income.

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5. The Stockholm Conference commenced the contemporary "environmental era", which brought a paradigm shift in the environmental governance and set a tone for multi-lateral environmental regime. Discuss.

5

Re The Stockholm Conference, 1972, recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee with the theme "A healthy planet for the prosperity of all."

Stockholm Conference – "Environmental Era"

1. Revolutionized and brought into forefront environmental actions by establishing the UNEP.
2. Stockholm Conference led to establishment of environmental ministries across the countries.
3. Stockholm Convention, 1972 has 122 member participants, and, they passed 26 resolutions together.

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(4) It led to emergence of the concept of "polluter pay principle".

(5) Was the bedrock for numerous other initiatives like the Rio Convention, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD and so on.

(6) Stockholm Convention introduced concept of multistakeholder approach by allowing NGOs, civil society groups, voluntary organisations to participate in it.

Way forward / & the path ahead

(1) Stockholm + 50 should focus on helping countries achieve the INDC targets of Paris agreement.

(2) Stockholm + 50 should strive towards global collaboration in environmental conservation and protection.

Stockholm Convention was a milestone moment in environment protection

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6. The world has witnessed a huge surge in climate-induced disasters, which are largely driven by anthropogenic factors. In this context, analyse the role of early warning systems in mitigating the impact of the disasters.

6. Recent disasters like "Chamoli Dam breach", "Pakistan flood", "China mega drought" have, bought into the forefront, "climate-induced disasters" and, their grave consequences on human lives.

Climate-Induced disasters - Role of Anthropogenic

① The organisation "Germanwatch" via its, Global Climate Change risk index, has, highlighted, that, the risk and hazard due to incessant greenhouse emissions, rampant - reckless mining, has increased exponentially.

② The 6th IPCC report, has, also highlighted that human activities have left permanent scars in the Earth which, lead to impending disasters

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Early warning Systems - Impact on disasters

(1) Early warning systems help warn the populate about approaching disasters, and, helps in Evacuation to safe places.

(2) Early warning systems also helps the government to anticipate the risk of the approaching disaster, and, the preparation to be made in the regards of disaster administration.

(3) Cyclone Early warning system, Tsunami, Early warning system by the NDMA has helped saved millions of ~~life~~ lives in disasters like Cyclone Hudhud, Fani, Aila.

Way forward

(1) The ~~cyc~~ Early warning systems must be revamped to provide state of the art facilities.

(2) NaVIC must be provided in all disaster prone areas

Early warning systems will help in mitigating the Anthropogenic induced disasters.

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7. Critically examine the implications of leveraging technology in policing.

(7) The Malimath Committee had recommended the use of technology to revamp the policing in India.

Policing in India – Need for Technology

(1) Policing in India, are, still having colonial mindset, technology will help them usher in new age service delivery.

(2) Technology will help in better surveillance, crime detection and catching criminals. eg: Facial Recognition Techniques used, as, suggested in Haldar Case.

(3) Technology will help in better co-ordination among departments and inter-state police coordination. eg:

Satellite based communication system will help in seamless connectivity.

(4) Technology will help in better record maintenance, crime records, FIRs filed, data of known criminals. eg NATGRID can be used by multiple agencies to get information.

(5) Technology can be used to better train the police personnels to manage crowd, nab criminals & investigate crimes.

Wayforward

(1) 2nd ARC report on public order recommendations like - reforming police HR policies must be made.

(2) Technology intervention by ICT must be implemented.

Police reforms as per Prakash Singh Case will help transform the institution to a "people-centric" approach.

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8. How far do you agree with the view that climate change poses a threat to international peace and security?

(8) The 6th IPCC report on Climate Change has highlighted, that, human induced climate change will lead to future conflicts & geo-political tensions.

Climate Change - threat to International Peace

(1) States will disappear, due to rising sea levels - Maldives, Fiji risk getting submerged.

(2) Coastal erosion, rising levels, will, submerge cities like Mumbai, Miami etc.

(3) ~~Rural~~ Indigenous people, women & children are most at risk, due to, human induced climate change disasters.

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(4) These will lead to "statelessness" and "Climate Change refugees"

(5) Climate Change will lead to opening of Arctic Shipping lanes, discovery of arctic oils and mineral resources will lead to disputes across nations.

(6) Antartica is already home to numerous territorial disputes between UK, Argentina, China etc. Climate Change and melting of ice sheets will heighten these conflicts.

(7) Climate change will lead to food scarcity, water shortages leading to disruptions in global trade and supply chains.

Wayforward

(1) Focus on international collaboration, via, paris peace agreement must be made.

(2) Nansen principles, New York declaration for Climate change refugees to be adopted.

Climate Change must be reversed to protect the human race from perils.

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9. What do you understand by a virtual private network (VPN)? Highlight its advantages and discuss the concerns posed by it.

(9) "Virtual private networks" are softwares that "encrypt" and "mask" the IP address of the computer system, to, help bypass the country laws.

Recently, the Indian government asked VPN companies to maintain logs of all requests made to it.

Advantages of VPN ~~net~~ connectivity

(1) It helps protect the identity of the user from excessive-unjustified surveillance by the states.

(2) It helps establish the "right to privacy" as under Article 21 of the constitution, and, the Puttaswamy judgement.

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(3) It helps journalist, government activists bypass the oppressive regimes of dictators. eg: North Korean journalist use VPN to access free and fair internet.

Concerns of VPN connectivity

(1) It can be used to access darkweb and trade in illegal arms, drugs etc.

(2) It harms the e-commerce websites, by bypassing the rules of trades.

(3) As the bandwidth of the internet infrastructure is limited, VPN put additional stress on the system.

(4) VPN is used for money laundering and terrorist financing

Wayforward

(1) VPN must be regulated by government.

(2) Free & fair use of internet must also be ensured.

VPN possess the ability to act as "double edged sword" in the internet infrastructure.

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10. The discovery of the Higgs Boson at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN completed 10 years recently. In this context, discuss the role played by CERN in overall scientific development.

10.

CERN is astrophysics promotion organisation based in the France – Switzerland borders. India is an associate member of CERN.

Role played by CERN in scientific development

(1) "Large haldron collider" led to discovery of the "Higgs-Boson" which is a subatomic particle. This helped in understanding the formation of the Earth."

(2) CERN is also involved in funding numerous other scientific studies in its organisation, such as, effect of gravitational waves on subatomic particles, impact on blackholes in destruction of

atoms. These research, will help understand the ~~w~~ working of the Universe.

(3) CERN played crucial role in development of the "World Wide Web"

(4) It possess huge data of scientific simulations related to subatomic particles, space study and astro-physics which can be utilised to develop further studies.

CERN is a leading organization to promote scientific discovery and study of the working of the Universe and the formation of Earth.

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11. Highlighting the factors that affect the cropping pattern in India, discuss the need for modifying it in the context of the emerging agro-ecological concerns.

11. The Economic Survey, 2021-22, suggests that Indian agriculture contribute roughly 20% to GVA of India, and, the cropping pattern helps in determining annual contribution.

Factors determining cropping pattern

1. **Climatic conditions** — Rainfall, annual temperature, moisture determine the crop to grow. eg: Rice is grown in rich rainfall areas.

2. **Soil Conditions** : — Alluvial soil, black soil etc eg → Wheat is grown in loamy soil, whereas, millets grow in coarse soil

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(3) ~~Need~~ Water Availability : The amount of water available, via, monsoon / irrigation also determines cropping pattern.

(4) Availability of inputs - like seeds, fertilisers, mechanisation, ~~also determines~~ leads to determination of cropping pattern.

(5) Government support like MSP, institutional credits. eg: Predominance of rice & wheat in India due to government support in procurement of cereals.

Need to modify the cropping pattern

(1) Climate change needs to be addressed via crop diversification.

(2) Impetus to nutritional security and food security, by growing millets.

(3) Protection of soil nutrients and water levels by growing pulses and

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leguminous crops.

(4) cropping pattern must be changed to induce environment friendly methods like zero-based natural farming, agro-forestry.

Way forward |

(1) National mission on Climate Smart agriculture must be promoted

(2) National mission on crop diversification must be given further impetus.

(3) Government intervention via, reforms like MSP signalling must be made.

(4) Farmers should avail schemes like "Soil health Card" & "Rashtriya Kisan Paramparagat Krishi Yojana"

Crop pattern modification will help in growth of Indian farmers, as, suggested in the National assessment survey

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12. While the budgetary reforms undertaken by the Central government in recent years have led to better management of government expenditure, there are some issues that still need redressal. Discuss.

12) The rising fiscal deficit in India, has led to, calls for better management of government expenditure. As per the Economic survey 2021-22, the gross fiscal deficit was, at 46.1. of the budget estimates.

Budgetary reforms to better management of expenditure

1) The government has launched its new procurement rules, which, focused on:

(a) Timely payment of dues to vendors

(b) Selection based on best quality and lowest cost methodology.

(c) Establishment of grievance redressal mechanism for solving concerns.

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(2) The government also launched the "e-Marketplace" for procurement by the government ministries and departments. It has made it mandatory to procure ~~for~~ from the GeM.

(3) Reforms have being made in the "General Financial Rules" to reform government expenditure.

(4) Rationalization of government schemes by reducing it from 66 to 28 and, establishing 6 "Core of the core" schemes.

Issues that need redressal

(1) Railways and the armed forces continue to have their own procurement policies.

(2) Non-adherence to the procurement policies, due to, opaqueness in government tender filing — concerns regarding nepotism.

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(3) Wasteful revenue expenditure in government departments and ~~wasteful~~ offices, as highlighted by CAG.

(4) Non implementation of electronic public finance information system, leads to concern of leakages.

Wayforward

(1) Reforms in public procurement to mandatory allow "Swiss Challenge method" in all expenditures.

(2) Implement of ~~electro~~ ICT enabled - public finance ~~mf~~ management system.
eg: Laos Public finance management system should serve as rolemodel.

(3) Rationalization of grants-in-aids, tied no funds as suggested by 15th finance commission.

* Government expenditure rationalization will help achieve $5 trillion economy.

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13. For India to create a 'future ready' railway system, it must harness innovation and resource efficiency. Discuss the statement in the context of the measures enlisted in the National Rail Plan 2030.

13

The Rakesh Mohan Committee has called for reforms in Railway system to make it "future ready".

Need to harness innovation & resource efficiency

(1) Very high operating costs (circa 98%) - leads to dwindling revenue streams

(2) Need to rationalize fares for both passengers & freight to increase efficiency in the operations.

(3) Innovations in rail infrastructure eg. Vista dome coaches, Vande-Bharat trains to revolutinize the railway experience.

(4) Currently, Indian Railways handle 1.5 billion tonnes of freight annually as per Economic Survey-2021-22

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(4) Innovation is also required in the management and HR policies of the Indian railways by restructing the railways board, Indian Railways Management Service.

(5) Innovation in railway tracks, railway routes via Dedicated freight corridors will make railways future ready.

(6) State-of-the art railway stations, customer facilities - sanitation will help transform railway system.

National Rail Plan - 2030

(1) It aims to usher in new age service delivery by catalysing synergies across railway

(2) Aims to increase the modal share of the railways

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(3) Reducing transit time of freight, by, increasing speed of freight trains to 50kmph

(4) Focusing on 100% electrification of the routes.

(5) De congestion of crucial lines like Delhi-Howrah, Delhi-Mumbai lines

(6) Identification of new dedicated freight corridors and high speed rail corridors.

(7) Increasing private sector participation via PPP model.

Wayforward

(1) Recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee like increasing capacity handling infrastructure of railways to be adopted.

(2) International best practices like Amtrak Train (USA) must be implemented

Railways reforms will help usher in "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

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14.

14. Discuss the significance of technology in the Indian agricultural sector. Also, state the challenges in realising its potential to improve agricultural efficiency and increase the income of the farmers.

The Ashok Dalwai committee has called for use of technology to double farmers income.

Significance of Technology in Indian Agriculture

① It is useful in predicting weather and climatic conditions, for, crop sowing, fertilizer spraying. eg: IMD satellites help in weather bulletin for farmers.

② It helps in providing market for selling the agricultural produce. eg: e-NAM, eAPMC, e-choupal by ITC, serves as mandi for the farmers.

③ Kisan call centers launched by govt. helps in providing advice to the farmers.

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(4) e-AgMarknet helps in standardisation, grading of agricultural produce

(5) Bhuvan platform of ISRO helps in understanding the soil of the farms

(6) Drones are being used for aerial delivery of fertilisers, pesticides etc.

(7) ICRISAT, ICAR are using technology to develop HYV seeds, nano urea, farm mechanising tools.

(8) IFFCO Net serves as online website for buying agricultural inputs.

Challenges in utilising technology

(1) Lack of literacy among farmers. around 38% of rural people are digitally literate as per MeiTy

(2) Lack of financial resources to procure

technologically advanced farm equipments.

(3) Lack of government support in providing subsidies, as well as, funds for research & development

(4) Limited role being played by private sector to bolster innovation

Wayforward

(1) Technology missions must be promoted to increase penetration in Indian farms.

(2) Private players must be encouraged via PPP models

(3) ICRISAT & ICAR must be revamped to promote new age innovation.

Adoption of technology in farming will fulfil food security in India as well as, improve socio-economic conditions of farmers.

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15. Despite the digital transformation in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, several challenges still remain. Elaborate. Also, suggest measures to address them. (250 words)

15 The Ministry of food and public distribution has lately ~~be~~ made aadhar seeding of ration cards and setting of e-point of sales in all fair price shops as mandatory.

Digital transformation in PDS

(1) ~~Shanta~~ Partha Mukhopadhyay committee had recommended implementation of ICT in the pds system of India.

(2) GPS tagging, electronic record maintenance would ensure tracking and prevent leakages in the ~~fg~~ system.

(3) Biometrics enabled ration card would ensure targeted beneficieries availing the facilities of the welfare scheme.

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Challenges in PDS system

1. Lack of digital standardisation, grading of the food & cereals.

2. Lack of effective inventory management system. eg: non adherence to FIFO principle.

3. Diversion of cereals by corruption and leakages in the system.

4. "One nation - One ration card" is yet to be fully operational, leading to, concerns for inter-state migrants workers.

5. Huge wastage of food crops due to inefficient procurement & storage.
eg: ICAR suggests roughly 4-5% of total produce gets wasted annually.

6. PDS system is causing huge burden on the financial exchequer due to high procurement prices and lower selling prices.

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Way forward for PDS reforms

(1) Shanta Kumar Committee reports' recommendations like compulsory linking of PDS shops with online Tracking system must be done

(2) "One nation - One ration" card must be made operational. The ration cards must be biometric enabled to ensure targeted beneficiary identification.

(3) Focus on digital interventions like drones to monitor procurement and storage must be made.

(4) National policy on food procurement must be revamped, to, allow private sector participation.

Digital Transformation in PDS in India will ensure fulfilment of SDG-2 (Zero hunger) and SDG-10 (Reduced Inequality)

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16. Discuss the various concerns that exist with regard to fuel efficiency regulations for vehicles in India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken in this regard.

(16) The World Resource Initiative and Niti Ayog have recently launched policy to decarbonise the ~~Det~~ transport in India and improve fuel efficiency in India.

Concerns that exist to fuel efficiency regulations

(1) The Bharat Norms-6, which was, launched is below standards of the EU norms and the USA guidelines.

(2) Existence of old vehicles which run on diesels plague the fuel efficiency regulations. These vehicles have internal combustible engines which release toxic fumes into the atmosphere.

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(3) Lack of effective phasing-out rules of old vehicles in the government, aswell as, private sector. eg: The policy for phasing out old vehicles was introduced recently, but, its implementation isn't being enforced.

(4) Ethanol blending at 20% is being preponed to 2025. However, it requires retrofitting of E20 engines.

(5) Use of methanol (dimethyl ether), as, substitute of diesal, is, ~~being~~ still under regulation, as, it is found to be corrosive in nature.

(6) Biofuels, require, fuel efficiency regulations which is still not developed as per National policy on biofuels.

(7) Concerns regarding safety of electronic vehicles is, raising, inefficiency in the Transport sector.

Wayforward

(1) Govt should ensure strict implementation of phasing out off old vehicles. eg- Scrap the 15 year diesal engine car

(2) Reforms in Ethanol blending to make it compliant with the Bharat- 6 standards.

(3) Electronic vehicles must be ensured to be fire resilient and efficient in resource utilisation.

(4) Niti aayog must ensure success of the forum for decarbonising the ~~fuel~~ transport sector.

(5) Smart cities must promote public-transport facilities for residents.

Fuel efficiency regulations will help India achieve its INDC goals and fulfil commitment to Paris agreement.

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17. Urban fire is becoming a serious cause of concern in Indian cities. In this context, highlight the major causes behind urban fires in India. What steps can be taken to build robust fire resilience in Indian cities?

17

Cases like fire in coaching institute of Surat, urban slums of Dharavi, and fire in AMRI hospital Kolkata, have, highlighted the threat of Urban fires in India.

Major Causes of Urban fires in India

1. Poor Urban Planning
   - (A) Non adherence of National building Code norms by new constructions.
   - (B) Poor scope of fire resilient structures already existing.
   - (C) Lack of fire safety / fire fighting tools in apartment complexes.
2. Poor resources, skills, and, capability among the fire fighters, due, to poor training and financial constraints

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(3) Increase in combustible materials in and around the urban homes – ~~elect~~ faulty electrical lines, combustible construction materials like wood furnitures and soon.

Steps to build robust fire resilience

(1) New buildings must adhere to the National Building Codes set up by BEE.

(2) Existing buildings must be retrofitted with fire fighting tools, like, fire extinguishers, fire exits and water storage tanks.

(3) Article 243 mandates Urban Local bodies to fight against urban fires. ULBs must strengthen capacity to reduce risk and hazard of fire in urban spaces.

(4) The fire fighters must be skilled and trained to handle vulnerable situations

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Modern equipments, like state-of-the art fire engines must be supplied.

(5) The Ministry of Urban affairs ~~has~~ must come up with a comprehensive SOP to ensure resilience to Urban fires.

(6) State government must co-ordinate with NDMA to build vulnerability mapping of high risk areas and conduct safety drills in schools, hospitals and places of agglomeration.

Urban fires represent hazard to the safety of the people. Building risk resilience will help achieve SDG-11 (Sustainable cities)

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18. Drones in border areas present a serious threat for border management in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the different measures taken to regulate the use of drones in India.

(18)

The Recent interception of drones across the Punjab border and the LOC, have, highlighted the serious threat for border management.

Drones – A Safety risk

(1) Drones are being used to Transport drugs, narcotics across the border from Pakistan.

(2) Drones are being used to supply weapons, arms to militants in Kashmir.

(3) Drones are being utilised to survey Indian outposts, military stations, army formations and movements by enemy countries.

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(4) Unmanned aerial vehicles ~~are being~~ can be utilised to launch attacks on the military and civil population alike.

eg: Drones used to conduct assasination attempt on Venezuelan President Chavez

(5) Drones, ~~are~~, may come in path of Indian army helicopters, aircrafts which may lead to crashes and death of personnels.

Measures taken by India

(1) India has classified "drones" as unmanned aerial vehicles based on weight and size to determine its risk.

(2) Ministry of civil aviation has come out with Drone regulations, which determine the rules to acquire & fly drones.

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(3) Indian armed forces has set up no-fly zones across sensitive areas like airports, military bases, headquarters.

(4) DRDO is developing anti-drone systems to engage and destroy anti drones.

(5) Indian Navy has acquired sea guardians from USA to monitor drones.

Way forward

(1) Indian armed forces must develop indigenous drone technologies for mitigating risk and vulnerability.

(2) Cross border engagement talks to prevent non-state actors from misusing drone technology.

(3) Godbole committee recomendations which suggests using technologies like BOLD-QIT for border management to be implemented.

Drones in border areas must be managed to ensure internal security of India

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19. Despite a global framework to prevent weaponization of space, it has been increasing in the recent times. Discuss. Also, give an account of the implications of space weaponization.

(19) The "Peaceful Use of Outer Space Treaty" bans use of space for military purposes

Weaponization of Space – Recent Times

(1) The United Nations calls on the use of space i.e "common goods" for peaceful use only such as, scientific usage, exploration

(2) However, countries like USA, Russia, China and India are launching and developing weapons to militarize the space frontier

(3) USA launched the "Space force" under Donald Trump presidency, as, an additional wing of its armed forces

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(4) India conducted ~~of~~ Mission Shakti — a capability to destroy enemy satellites using Kinetic kill technology.

(5) Withdrawal of USA and Russia from Open skies Treaty, means, increase in space militancy.

Implications of weaponization of Space

(1) It will lead to a maddening arms race, as observed previously in the cold war era, leading, to increased scope for geo-political tensions.

(2) Destruction of space satellites will lead to "Kessler syndrome" — a phenomena where, we will get trapped in the Earth due to enormous space debris.

(3) Nuclear explosions in space and on the moon will have far-reaching impact, leading, to solar storms.

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heightened nuclear radiation and ~~ros~~ lead to a nuclear winter.

(4) Weaponization of space will have negative impact on scientific discovery and exploration, as, collaboration across countries will take a hit. Eg. Russia has already announced building its own space station.

Way forward

(1) International community, must, prevent militarization of the space. India can, play role of "Vishwa Guru" to lead this.

(2) "Peaceful use of Outer Space Treaty" must be made legally binding for all countries.

(3) Nasa, ISRO, ESA must play role of facilitator.

Peaceful use of space will help in advancement of human race and civilization

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20. What do you understand by a bio-economy? Highlight the role that the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025 can play in creating a robust bio-economy in India

20 "Bioeconomy" is the utilisation of biological resources and bioprocess to develop sustainable products like Biofuels, Biotextiles, Biofertilizers, Biopharmaceuticals and soon.

Recently, BIRAC launched the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-25 to create robust bio-economy.

Bio-Economy in India

1. Multisectoral Involvement to improve resource utilization and productivity
   - (A) Farming: Genetically engineered seeds, Bio-fertilizers and pesticides
   - (B) Medicines: Bio Medicines, Bio Syringe
   - (C) Environment Sustainability: Bio Plastic, Biotextiles, Bio-energy

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(2) India's ~~eco~~ bioeconomy is likely to touch USD150 billion by 2026.

National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-25

(1) It aims to increase scientific research & development in sectors across primary, secondary and tertiary industry.

(2) Schemes like SITARE, to propel, research and help scientists in funding

(3) It aims to bridge regional disparities especially, in North East India.

(4) The strategy has a focus to make India sufficient in GEM crops and become a net exporter in biotechnology.

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(5) Special thrust on innovation of 2nd, 3rd generation Bio-ethanol has been made in the strategy.

(6) Aims to resolve ethical and safety concerns with regards to biotechnology, like, concerns regarding cellular dystrophy

(7) The strategy aims to create proactive platform for collaboration with private sector for advancing scientific research.

Wayforward

(1) Biotechnology in India must be promoted, by making it more accessible to the poor farmers

(2) Strict adherence of international conventions like Carthagena protocol must be implemented

(3) PPP model for collaboration to be developed

(4) BIRAC to be revamped to ensure more autonomy and financial capability.

Bioeconomy will help India achieve the goal of $5 trillion economy.